

Degenerative Myelopathy

The UK Breed Clubs, The Glen of Imaal Terrier Association (GOITA) and The Enthusiasts and Fanciers of the Glen (EFG) have been working on this subject for a while now and are pleased to advise that we are now working together with the Royal Kennel Club in London and geneticists employed by the RKC and working with the RKC to address the situation regarding Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) and whether or not we have a problem in our breed. This is what we are intending to do: The Clubs will conduct an Allele* Frequency Test with a given number of glens from as diverse parentage as possible, the results of which will be studied by genetics experts and it will be determined whether or not we actually have a problem with DM in our breed. Depending upon the results of this a decision will be made as to the next course of action. Unfortunately this will take a while because even if an animal is tested genetically affected there is no guarantee that they will go on to show clinical signs in later life. Unfortunately, the only way to absolutely confirm that the animal has died with this disease is by performing an autopsy which is not only expensive but also heart breaking for the owners of the animal, but obviously if this needs to be done then it will have to be and this will be addressed when and if it is required. As the foregoing all needs to be achieved as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated if you, as owners, would have your animals tested and advise the Breed Health Co-ordinators (Wendy Tobijanski for EFG and Lynne Fraser for GOITA) of the results in order that we can add them to our spreadsheet. We can assure you that the spreadsheet will remain confidential and will not be shared with anyone without express permission from the owner. The results of these tests will be published as a percentage of clear/carrier/affected only, no names or further information will be given. All information given to the Breed Health Co-ordinators is confidential and will not be shared with anyone from either club. The two laboratories which are being used for testing are as follows, they have both given us a 'bundle' which allows us as members of both Clubs to have the tests done at a cheaper rate. Laboklin www.laboklin.co.uk Animal DNA Diagnostics Ltd www.animaldnadiagnostics.co.uk

(*The definition of Allele is: each of two or more alternative forms of a gene that arise by mutation and are found at the same place on a chromosome. Also called allelomorph.)

If you require any assistance or have any questions, please feel free to contact either of the Breed Health Co-ordinators. You are welcome to contact us if you want to know any more information about the project. Wendy Tobijanski (janskiterriers@btinternet.com) Lynne Fraser (lynne@icanhelp.com)